

# energy update



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MAR | 25

## 9 Tips to Go Green for St. Patrick's Day

- 1. Replace your HVAC filter** – When was the last time you replaced your filter? If you can't remember, there's a good chance that it is time to replace it. Generally, these need to be replaced every three months, but factors such as having pets, climate and age of your system can cause this to vary.
- 2. Install a smart thermostat** – A smart thermostat can add convenience and generate savings. You can set it to adjust your home's temperature depending on your schedule, and many thermostats can detect when no one is home and automatically reduce use.
- 3. Analyze your energy bill** – Review past bills to better understand your energy consumption patterns. Understanding these patterns can help you decide when to run appliances, whether to pursue energy efficiency upgrades and how to start reducing your usage.
- 4. Cut energy use during peak hours** – In the springtime, the peak hours for electricity tend to be in the evenings. Consider going out to a park, restaurant or theater during this time to lower your electricity usage.
- 5. Upgrade to energy-efficient appliances** – Look for appliances that are ENERGY STAR-certified. These appliances use 10 to 15% less energy and water than standard models, according to Energy.gov.
- 6. Look for energy savings rebate programs for solar, battery storage or electric vehicles** – This could be your year to go electric or solar! ACEC offers rebates for many products. Learn more at [www.acrec.com/rebates](http://www.acrec.com/rebates).
- 7. Consider going geothermal for your heating and cooling needs** – Geothermal systems are literally powered by the Earth. These systems heat and cool your home using a piping system, referred to as a loop. Water circulates in this loop to exchange heat between your home, the ground source heat pump and the Earth. There can be significant start-up costs, so see what incentives are offered in your area. There

are also collective buying programs to help reduce initial costs through competitive bulk pricing.

- 8. Assess your home's solar potential** – How much of your roof is suitable for solar panels? Are there deals to make installation affordable? What energy savings could you receive? Find answers to these questions to discover if this is your time to go solar. Search for solar calculators, contact Ryan at ACEC or reach out to vetted companies for assessments and quotes.
- 9. Sign up for community solar** – If you can't install solar panels because you rent, don't have a sunny roof or if it's too expensive, you could benefit from community solar programs. Reach out to ACEC to see if ACEC SunSource is an option for you.



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Lengthen the life of your clothes dryer with regular cleaning. Clean the lint filter after every load, which improves air circulation and safety. Check the lint trap opening to ensure it's clean. Use a vacuum to remove any lint that's fallen inside the opening.

If you use dryer sheets, check the lint filter for residue buildup. Remove any residue with hot water and a nylon brush or toothbrush. Over time, dryer sheets can leave a film on the filter, which can affect the performance of the motor.



# Call ACEC Before You Begin Construction

It's never too early to start planning your spring construction projects. Make sure those plans involve a quick call to Allamakee-Clayton Electric. Whether it's an addition to your home, upgrading buildings on the farm or any other project that could increase your energy needs, it's vital to call ACEC as early in the planning process as possible so we can complete the electrical work to accommodate your construction timeline.

Every year, we receive outage calls from members who didn't call our office before starting their construction project. Why do we need to be involved? Because if your transformer is not large enough to handle the extra load from your projects, it can overload and create an unnecessary and inconvenient outage.

"It is incredibly helpful to be contacted at the beginning stages of a project so that I'm able to help guide members with decisions for the new service or service changes, allowing me to work hand-in-hand with electricians on our requirements," said ACEC Staking Engineer Aandi Deering. "Quite often when we are left out of the process until the end, it comes back to members that changes need to be made, causing a higher cost and a delay in the project, that all could have been easily prevented with a phone call."

If you have a project coming up, want to discuss a possible service upgrade or line extension or want someone to look over your plans, give us a call at 563-864-7611.

## Call 811

It's also important to give 811 Iowa One Call a phone call before any digging project. Every nine minutes, an underground utility line is damaged because someone decides to dig without calling 811 first. Those utility lines also include fiber optic internet, which can involve a lengthy wait time for repair. Make sure you dig responsibly this spring.

### NOTICE: Complaint Procedures

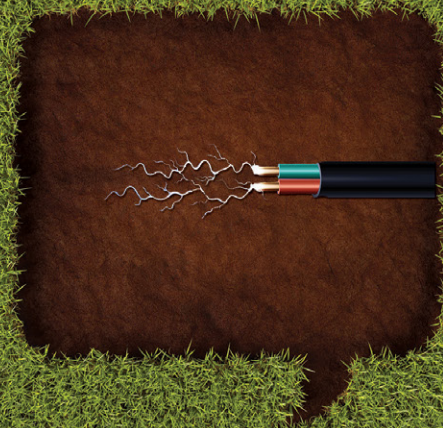
The following notice is delivered annually to our members in compliance with Complaint Procedures rules as adopted by the Iowa Utilities Commission (IUC).

If you have a complaint concerning your electric service received from Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, contact the Co-op at 229 Hwy 51, PO Box 715, Postville, IA 52162, 888-788-1551 or 563-864-7611.

If your complaint is related to Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative service rather than its rates, and Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Commission by calling 515-725-7300, or toll-free 1-877-565-4450, by writing to 1375 E. Court Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069, or by email to [customer@iuc.iowa.gov](mailto:customer@iuc.iowa.gov).

# plan ahead.

you never know what lies below...



*Make safety a priority when digging. Before starting any digging project, call 811. It is a free service that will have buried public utilities marked on your property so that you can safely dig around them.*

*Just call 811, or submit an online request at [Call811.com](http://Call811.com) at least few business days before you plan to dig.*

Learn more at

 Safe  
Electricity.org